Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An integrated circuit, configured to process microphone signals, where the integrated circuit comprises:

a preamplifier with an amplifier section which has a differential input comprising a first input (+) and a second input (-) and an output (φ; φ^*), and with a feedback filter network coupled between the output (φ; φ^*) and the second input (-); where the first input (+) to the amplifier section is coupled to an input (ϕ) of the preamplifier for receiving a microphone signal; and where the preamplifier has a frequency-gain transfer function which suppresses low frequencies in a stop band relative to higher frequencies in a pass band; and where the preamplifier is configured to provide a common-mode differential output signal in the stop band and a differential-mode differential output signal in the pass band; and

an analogue-to-digital converter coupled to receive the differential output signal, as an anti-aliasing filtered signal, from the preamplifier and to provide a digital output signal.

2. (original) An integrated circuit according to claim 1, where

the preamplifier is configured to provide a differential output signal (φ, φ^*) by a first and a second amplifier section,

where the preamplifier has a differential mode transfer function which comprises a band-pass characteristic (A_{DM}), and

where the preamplifier comprises a feedback filter network which establishes filter feedback paths (a-b; c-d) which couple outputs to respective inverting inputs of the amplifier sections, and which establishes a filter interconnection path (a-c), which interconnects the inverting inputs.

3. (previously presented) An integrated circuit according to claim 1, where a lower cut-off frequency (F_{P1}) of the filter realized by the preamplifier is located below the lower corner frequency of an audio band.

4. (previously presented) An integrated circuit according to claim1, where the preamplifier has a differential mode transfer function (A_{DM}) which comprises a band-pass characteristic with an upper cut-off frequency (F_{P3}; F_{P2}) located below half the sampling frequency (F_S) of the analogue-to-digital converter.

5. (previously presented) An integrated circuit according to claim 1, where the preamplifier has a differential mode transfer function (A_{DM}) which comprises a band-pass characteristic, which has a nominal pass-band (F_{P1} - F_{P2}) and a gain plateau band (F_{Z2} - F_{P3}), where the nominal pass-band extends over audio band frequencies and where the gain plateau band extends over frequencies above the audio band up to an upper cut-off frequency (F_{P3}).

6. (previously presented) An integrated circuit according to claim 1, where the preamplifier has a common-mode transfer function (A_{CM}) which comprises a low-pass characteristic.

7. (previously presented) An integrated circuit according to claim 1, where the preamplifier has a common-mode transfer function (A_{CM}) which comprises a stop-band characteristic ($F_{Z1'}$ - ; $F_{Z1'}$ – $F_{Z2'}$), and where a flat gain response is provided for low frequencies (DC – $F_{P1'}$).

8. (previously presented) An integrated circuit according to claim 1, where the preamplifier has a common-mode transfer function (A_{CM}) and a differential mode transfer function (A_{DM}) which are configured such that its common-mode gain (A_{CM}) prevails at low frequencies (DC-$F_{P1'}$) whereas its differential mode gain (A_{DM}) prevails at audio band frequencies (F_{AL}-F_{AU}).

9. (previously presented) An integrated circuit according to claim 1, where additionally the common-mode gain (A_{CM}) prevails at frequencies above an upper cut-off frequency (F_{P2}, F_{P3}) of the band-pass characteristic.

10. (previously presented) An integrated circuit according to claim 1, where a phase-shifter is cross-coupled between the output of a first amplifier section and an input of a second amplifier section.

11. (previously presented) An integrated circuit according to claim 1, where a phase-shifter is coupled between respective inputs (-) of the respective amplifier sections.

12. (previously presented) An integrated circuit according to claim 1, where the preamplifier comprises a DC off-set circuit integrated with the feedback filter (Z1; Z1,Z1*,Z2) to provide a DC shift at the output of the preamplifier.

13. (previously presented) An integrated circuit according to claim 1, comprising a DC off-set circuit integrated with the feedback filter and configured to provide a differential mode DC shift at the output of the preamplifier.

14. (previously presented) An integrated circuit according to claim 1, , where the analogue-to-digital converter comprises a sigma-delta modulator.

15. (original) An integrated circuit according to claim 14, where the sigma-delta modulator comprises a switch-capacitor sampler, which samples the differential signal (φ, φ*) provided by the preamplifier to provide a single ended input signal for the sigma-delta A/D conversion, and samples a DC voltage level ($V_{Ref\Sigma\Delta}$) such that the single ended input signal is superimposed on the sampled DC voltage level.

16. (original) An integrated circuit according to claim 15, where the sampler comprises a summing amplifier which is an integrated portion of the sampler and the sigma-delta modulator loop.

17. (original) An integrated circuit according to claim 16, where the summing amplifier is provided with an integration error feedback signal of the sigma-delta modulator via a first series capacitor and where the DC voltage level is provided to the summing amplifier via a second series capacitor.

18. (previously presented) An integrated circuit according to claim 1, where the analogue-to-digital converter comprises a sigma-delta modulator, and where a DC off-set voltage level input to the sigma-delta modulator is chosen such that a low-frequent pulse input to and processed by the preamplifier provides idle-mode tones above the audio band.

19. (currently amended) A microphone comprising an integrated circuit as set forth in claim 1 and further comprising ~~any of the above claims and~~ a condenser microphone element configured to provide a microphone signal, responsive to a sound pressure on the microphone element, to the input (ϕ) of the microphone preamplifier.

20. (currently amended) A microphone comprising an integrated circuit as set forth in claim 1 and further comprising ~~any of the above claims and~~ a MEMS microphone element to provide a microphone signal, responsive to a sound pressure on the MEMS microphone element, to the microphone preamplifier.